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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/339,265	06/23/1999	VICTOR LORTZ	42390.P5671	2384

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STEVEN D. YATES
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD 7TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

EXAMINER

NAJJAR, SALEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2001

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

and

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/339,265

Applicant(s)

LORTZ, VICTOR

Examiner

Saleh Najjar

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on June 23, 1999. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-24 represent method, apparatus and article of manufacture for network based detection of product replacement information.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 7-12, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkowski, U.S. Patent No. 6,064,979.

Perkowski teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method and system for finding and serving consumer product related information over the Internet using manufacturer identification numbers (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Perkowski teaches method for determining product servicing related information by an end user, comprising:

obtaining an associated identifier of a pad by the end user; automatically coupling by a scanner interface the identifier of the pad to a network enabled browser; automatically connecting by the browser over a network connection to a remote database to retrieve product servicing related information for the part, such database searchable by the associated identifier; and automatically displaying by the browser for the end user the retrieved replacement related information for a part (see figs. 1-6; col. 5-6, Perkowski teaches that a product number can be scanned using a barcode scanner by the user to obtain product service and general information for maintenance etc.).

Perkowski fails to teach the claimed limitation of "part replacement".

However, Perkowski does teach that product related service, updates etc (see col. 10-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Perkowski by specifying the product distributor, or product related updates or maintenance information as part replacement data since the same functionality is achieved.

As to claim 2, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above, wherein the identifier of the part is a selected one of a UPC identifier, product-identifier mark, and textual product identifier (see col. 6-8).

As to claim 7, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above, in which the network connection is a link with the Internet, the method further comprising:

providing the associated identifier in a predetermined format, such format being a selected one of a bar-code format, a product-identifier mark, and a verbal identifier; wherein a portable bar-code scanner is utilized to obtain the associated identifier (see col. Col. 12).

As to claim 8, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above, the method further comprising: contacting a cross-reference hub; searching the cross-reference hub with the associated identifier to obtain at least one additional product identifier; and automatically searching the remote database with the at least one additional product identifier to retrieve product maintenance related information for the part (see figs. 1-2; col. 6-8).

As to claim 9, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 8 above, wherein the associated identifier is a non-unique product category reference, and the at least one additional product identifier is partially unique (see col. 8-12).

As to claim 10, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 8 above, further comprising:

semantically analyzing the retrieved product maintenance related information; and reorganizing the retrieved replacement related information according such analysis

(see fig. 1A; col. 6).

Claim 11 does not teach or define any new limitation above claim 1 above and therefore is rejected for similar reasons.

As to claim 12, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above, in which the maintenance related information includes related product data, where a related part is one that requires replacement along with the part (see col. 10-12, Perkowski teaches that product maintenance information and product update information is retrieved and displayed to the user).

As to claim 18, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above, further comprising:

retrieving from the remote database product maintenance related concerns, such concerns including warning and suggestions for a user seeking to maintain the part; retrieving from the remote database identification of related parts requiring replacement along with the part; displaying the maintenance related concerns to the user; and notifying the user of the related parts requiring maintenance (see 10-12 and 19, Perkowski teaches that product related information such as maintenance information, update information, distributor information and related product updates are displayed to the user).

Claims 19-23 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 1-2, 7-12, and 18 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

4. Claims 3-6, 13-17 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkowski, in view of Gottsman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,134,548 (referred to hereafter as Gotts).

Perkowski teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method and system for finding and serving consumer product related information over the Internet using manufacturer identification numbers (see abstract).

As to claims 3-5, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above.

Perkowski fails to teach the claimed limitation wherein user preferences are retrieved and product data are arranged according to user preference wherein the user preference is a selected one of limiting price, limiting distance to travel to obtain a replacement part, limiting shipping time for the replacement part, limiting time to effect part replacement, and only displaying a vendor having the replacement part in stock..

However, Gotts teaches a system and method for mobile bargain shopping where product information is arranged and formatted and displayed according to user preferences (see summary). Gotts teaches the claimed limitation wherein user preferences are retrieved and product data are arranged according to user preference (see figs. 10B, 11; col. 33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Perkowski in view of Gotts so that product information is presented to the user according to user preferences. One would be motivated to do so to allow display of product related information in a familiar and convenient view to the user.

As to claim 6, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 3 above, further comprising:
identifying at least one provider within the retrieved replacement related information having a replacement part in stock; and prominently displaying the at least one provider; wherein prominently displaying includes sorting the retrieved replacement related information so that the at least one provider is at the top of such retrieved information (see col. 8-12, 17-19).

As to claim 13, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 1 above.

Perkowski does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation of determining a geographic location for the part; identifying vendors of a replacement part for the part, each vendor having a geographic location; and sorting the vendors according to their geographic proximity to the part.

However, Gotts teaches a system and method for mobile bargain shopping where product information is arranged and formatted and displayed according to user

preferences (see summary). Gotts teaches determining a geographic location for the part; identifying vendors of a replacement part for the part, each vendor having a geographic location; and sorting the vendors according to their geographic proximity to the part (see figs. 10B, 11; col. 33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Perkowski in view of Gotts so that product information is presented to the user according to geographical order. One would be motivated to do so to allow display of product related information in a convenient view related to distance from user.

As to claim 14-15, Perkowski teaches the method of claim 13 above.

Perkowski does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation of providing a proximity preference, such preference set to user election if such election has been made, otherwise to a predetermined value; and culling the retrieved replacement information according to the proximity preference.

However, Gotts teaches a system and method for mobile bargain shopping where product information is arranged and formatted and displayed according to user preferences (see summary). Gotts teaches providing a proximity and price preference, such preference set to user election if such election has been made, otherwise to a predetermined value; and culling the retrieved replacement information according to the proximity and price preference (see figs. 10B, 11; col. 33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Perkowski in view of Gotts so that product information is presented to the user according to proximity, price and geographical order. One would be motivated to do so to allow display of product related information in a convenient view related to user preferences.

Claims 16-17, and 24 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 1-6, 13-15, and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- accessing remote computers using an article of manufacture by Hudetz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,978,773.
- Streamlined access to online services by Springer, U.S. Patent No. 6,321,262.
- Retrieving customer information at a transaction center by Roberts et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,101,486.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saleh Najjar whose telephone number is (703) 308-7613. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AN MENG AI, can be reached on (703) 305-9678. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9052.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600. The fax number for the After-Final correspondence/amendment is (703) 746-7238. The fax number for official correspondence/amendment is (703) 746-7239. The fax number for Non-official draft correspondence/amendment is (703) 746-7240.



Saleh Najjar
Examiner Art Unit 2154

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes **incorporated** therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.